



## Early Learning Coalition of Lake County

Innovative services for children of Lake County

These minutes summarize the key issues discussed at the meeting. An audio recording is available upon request.

### CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Pruitt called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and a quorum was determined. The following members were present: Mr. B. E. Thompson, Ms. Michele Rawls, Ms. Jeanie Rowin, Ms. Marie Carlberg, Ms. Sherry Olszanski, Ms. Marsha Carpenter, Ms. Dawn Mainville, Mr. Eddy Workinger, Commissioner Linda Stewart, Dr. Barbara Howard, Dr. Hugh Brockington and Mr. Oscar Palau for Ms. Donna Gregory. The following members were absent: Ms. Nancy Allison, Mr. Hays Ginn, Ms. Porcha Green, and Ms. Cheryl Ridley. The following staff members were present: Ms. Leshia Buchbinder, Ms. Laura Close and Ms. Patricia Pierce. The following guests were present: Ms. Sabrina Ciceri, Mr. Eric English, Ms. Cindy Winkle, Ms. Maureen Jergins, Ms. Doreen Chatelier, Ms. Rebecca Foley-Kearney and Ms. Denise Lancaster.

### CONSENT CONSIDERATIONS

Mr. Pruitt presented Action Items 497 through Item 502 and asked if anyone had questions or comments. Ms. Jeanie Rowin asked to table Item 500, the draft Report of the Annual Audit, until the January 2010 Board meeting. Ms. Rowin commented that the Audit Review Committee did not have an opportunity to review the final document submitted by the auditor. There were no other comments on the remaining action items. There was a motion and a second to approve items 497 through 502 with the exception of item 500. The motion carried. Mr. Pruitt welcomed the new Board members and asked them to be seated with the other Board members.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Buchbinder began the Executive Director's report commenting on the 2010 Association of Early Learning Coalition Legislative Priorities, stating that one of the main priorities revolves around the level of funding for the SR and VPK programs. Ms. Buchbinder also reported that another priority was that the VPK program be aligned under the Agency for Workforce so that one entity would be responsible for the oversight of all early learning services. Ms. Buchbinder commented that the realignment would provide increased efficiency and reduce duplication of efforts. Ms. Buchbinder distributed the priorities along with talking points so that Board members would have the information available if needed.

Ms. Buchbinder proceeded to review a document from the Child Care Bureau which was a response to an inquiry regarding child care providers/parent who own and/or operate a child care facility and also receive child care subsidies for their own children. The response stated that though a Coalition cannot disallow a provider from choosing their facility as the child care provider of choice, the State and/or local Coalition can require that someone other than the parent provide care for the children. The response further stated that under no circumstances can a Family Home Provider receive a subsidy for their children and select their facility as the provider of choice. The response stated that the purpose of the CCDF subsidy was not for parental care. Ms. Buchbinder commented that this new interpretation will impact a few family home providers in Lake County. Ms. Buchbinder asked the Board for guidance on the issue and the members agreed that ELCLC should develop a policy stating that the owner/director of a family child care home will not receive a subsidy for services for their own child. Ms. Buchbinder stated that a letter will be written to providers notifying them of the communication, and will assist them with finding suitable care for their child at another facility. Ms. Buchbinder commented that perhaps the same policy should be extended to include owners/directors in private child care facilities who are currently serving their own children and are receiving a subsidy.

Ms. Buchbinder continued with an update on the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Partnership, stating that upon research at the state, it has been determined that there would be no conflict of interest if the Coalition was to provide financial assistance for the Imagination Library as previously authorized by the Board.

Ms. Buchbinder briefly reviewed the additional program information that was included in the Executive Director's report. Ms. Buchbinder commented that the VPK monitoring for 2009-2010 has been completed. There were 63 providers monitored. Out of the providers monitored 8 were out of compliance due to having incomplete teacher information on file with the Coalition, 4 providers were out of compliance for ratio and/or inappropriate use of classroom time. Those facilities out of compliance for ration will or inappropriate use of time will not receive payment for that day and will have the option to revise their calendar accordingly. Ms. Buchbinder added that the School Board is currently conducting their first semester monitoring with the deadline in January. Ms. Buchbinder referred to the Coalition QIC Update that was also included in the packet.

Ms. Buchbinder proceeded with the OEL/AWI correspondence, stating that the ELCLC Plan Amendments previously submitted to the State in August, have been approved on November 3, 2009. Ms. Buchbinder also reminded the Board that the OEL accountability and eligibility review team will be here on December 8 to conduct an onsite review of child files and provider files for both the School Readiness and Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten programs. The review process will include telephone interviews with Board members and she will let the appropriate members know what times the interviews will be conducted. Ms. Buchbinder also reported that KPMG has scheduled the 2009 financial audit for January 11, 2010. Ms. Buchbinder concluded the Executive Director's report stating that there is an Early Learning Advisory Council meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup> in Tampa and encouraged the Board's Governor Appointees and other members to attend the meeting.

#### CHAIR REPORT/BOARD NETWORKING

Mr. Pruitt informed the Board members that he would like to change the format for the Chair report to include more informational exchange amongst Board members. Mr. Pruitt commented that he would like to see more involvement from the members. Mr. Pruitt encouraged members to stop by one of our centers for a visit when they are out in the community as this will help them have a better feel for what our providers may need at their facilities. Mr. Pruitt commented that Board members may already have great ideas on how the Coalition can assist providers with getting materials for an urgent need to maintain their contracts. Ms. Buchbinder previously shared that there are several centers that are at risk due to non compliance regarding fencing or barriers to protect children playing outdoors. Mr. Pruitt suggested that if the Board compiled a list of what we wanted to achieve, members could talk with their business associates to see how they may be able to partner with the Coalition to provide materials or services to our providers. Mr. Pruitt reminded members that the Coalition has tremendous discretion with grant funds and some things could be purchased for the centers. Mr. Pruitt asked members to share some thoughts or goals they wanted the Board and Coalition to consider in this endeavor. A synopsis of the discussion with the Board members is included with the Chair's Report Item 516.

There was a motion and a second to adjourn. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Submitted by:

Patricia Pierce  
Executive Assistant

Approved on January 6, 2010